

DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR PLANS

24 February 1951

Assistant Director for Research and Reports

Proposal for Psychological Strategy Board

REFERENCE : Draft Presidential Directive, dated February 19, 1951

1. O/RR's principal concern with any proposed organization to coordinate psychological warfare relates to the impact of such proposals on the allocation of responsibility for psychological warfare intelligence. The problem of intelligence support for psychological warfare operations is not mentioned in the draft proposal. Should any question arise as to whether some mention of intelligence support should be made in the directive, it is the view of this office that it would be undesirable for the directive to deal with this problem. O/RR, O/PC, O/IC, and the appropriate offices in the IAC agencies have been informally working out arrangements for the allocation of intelligence responsibility in the psychological warfare field. These arrangements appear to be satisfactory at the moment, but all parties regard them as tentative, and we feel that it would be unwise to freeze any detailed allocation in a directive at this time.

2. I would personally add a comment on the proposal at the bottom of page 2 of the draft that the chairman of the Board assemble a staff of individuals detailed on his request from the participating departments and agencies. Our experience has not been very satisfactory with staff detailed from other agencies to work with us. Especially in times of crisis like these when all agencies feel a lack of enough competent people, the natural impulse is to assign to this sort of staff those people who are not urgently needed in the current operations of the agency. If this Psychological Strategy Board is to be effective it must have a staff of the very highest competence. I would suppose it would be more likely that such a staff would be assembled if the chairman of the Board were given authority to hire his assistants directly rather than by assignment.

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